



CEPPS/NDI Quarterly Report: January 1 to March 31, 2005

ANGOLA: ELECTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION USAID Associate Cooperative Agreement No. 690-A-00-04-00280-00, under the Leader Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00

Project Dates: September 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005

I. SUMMARY

As Angola struggles to overcome the legacy of civil war and authoritarian rule, which was characterized by a heavily centralized government and a lack of open civic participation throughout the country, citizens express a lack of knowledge about the electoral process as well as fear about the next elections and a belief that the polls will not be conducted fairly. The country's emergent civil society organizations (CSOs) want to be involved in the electoral process, but given their lack of experience with elections they do not fully understand the role they can play in ensuring a free and fair process that contributes to promoting trust and allaying citizen's fears. With these factors and challenges in mind, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is working with Angolan CSOs to both deepen democratic practices and provide opportunities to enable the transparency and inclusiveness of the election process.

With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) since 2003 (under CEPPS leader Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00), NDI has been assisting Angolan CSOs to advocate for a more transparent and democratic electoral process, monitor election-related activities, and help build the confidence of citizens to engage in the political process. In September 2004, NDI received follow-on USAID funding to continue its long-term assistance program in Angola under the current associate cooperative agreement. In consultation with USAID, the Institute began work on a detailed implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation plan; however, program activities during the previous quarter were conducted with remaining funds from the leader award.

In January 2005, NDI initiated activities under the associate agreement, which builds on the foundation for civil society election support established under the previous leader award. The specific objectives of NDI's current program are to:

- Strengthen the ability of Angolan civil society organizations to engage in the electoral process; and
- Strengthen the ability of civil society organizations to contribute to a peaceful election.

Activities conducted during this quarter included:

- Working with three civic partnerships – the Luanda-based Election Network (Rede Eleitoral or REDE), Benguela Election Network (BEN) and the faith-based Inter-Ecclesiastical Committee for Peace in Angola (COIEPA) – to improve their organizational capacity by conducting workshops on organizational and project management, strategic planning and financial management as well as technical workshops on electoral issues such as election laws and voter registration.
- Assisting the REDE to prepare an analysis of the draft election laws and providing training on how to conduct an advocacy campaign including writing a declaration to the relevant parliamentary commission, holding a press conference, meeting members of the commission and monitoring the work of the commission handling the draft election laws.
- Organizing a national conference with the REDE on electoral issues for civic groups from around the country, leaders of political parties and members of relevant government departments.
- Conducting a two-day workshop with the REDE and BEN on establishing a local election network for 30 members of civil society organizations from 10 different provinces.
- Facilitating a day and half session of strategic planning for COIEPA.
- Conducting a training-of-trainers workshop on electoral systems with leaders of women's youth organizations.
- Launching a book on the conduct of the 1992 elections written by the former director general of the National Electoral Commission, Dr. Onofre dos Santos.
- Conducting a workshop on "Fraud, Counting and Tabulation" and legal means to protect against it with the assistance of Dr. dos Santos.
- Coordinating with other organizations that support or plan to support the electoral process.
- Identifying additional sources of funding to support civic groups.

One of the highlights this quarter was significant progress achieved by the REDE in its organizational development, including the formation of advocacy and communications teams, and in its election-related work. In particular, the REDE successfully organized the national conference on election issues and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) electoral standards. The group also analyzed the draft electoral laws and advocated civil society interests to the National Assembly, which resulted in specific changes to the draft laws. In addition, the REDE implemented a successful advocacy campaign to increase the time period allotted for election monitoring.

In the coming quarter, NDI plans to: develop voter education material and voter registration methodology with its civic partners; assist partners in developing effective media strategies to publicize voter registration information and electoral law analysis; continue subgrant support to REDE and BEN; and develop a plan for next year's program to include support to civic groups in the provision of voter education, promotion of conflict resolution mechanisms and in the formation of a nationwide election-monitoring network.

II. BACKGROUND

Political Context

Since the April 2002 ceasefire signaling the end of 30 years of civil war, Angola has experienced almost three years of relative peace and stability. A number of important changes have occurred including the demobilization of armed combatants, the possibility to move freely in the country, the formal transformation of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) into a political party and the public declaration of the ruling party, the Movement for the Popular Liberation of Angola (MPLA), to uphold the tenets of the peace agreement that include holding elections. The next elections are crucial in establishing citizen confidence in the political process and in testing the willingness to accommodate different aspirations through competitive politics and the resulting votes.

In mid 2004, the president stated the need for the National Assembly to review the election laws before he could set an election date. Afterward, the majority party and the opposition presented electoral timetables highlighting the tasks to be carried out for elections including the review of the election laws. In October 2004, both sides presented a package of draft legislation and the MPLA presented a September 2006 date for legislative assembly elections, which seemed to have the approval of most political actors, while President dos Santos proposed to hold a presidential election in 2007 to allow the new legislature to pass a revised constitution. The date for the parliamentary polls and whether the presidential election will be held separately from them are still under debate.

Starting in January, the National Assembly held a plenary session to debate the comprehensive legislative package to support the upcoming elections. The opposition had requested that the negotiation be held between party leaders, which basically would relegate the MPLA to the status of a party among others, but the MPLA forced the debate to be carried by specialized commissions in the National Assembly and given its majority guaranteeing that if consensus was not reached its version would pass.

Serious differences exist between the ruling MPLA and the opposition parties led by UNITA, with the chief bone of contention being the make up and the competencies of the National Electoral Commission (NEC). Opposition parties call for an independent NEC, noting that the 1992 NEC model is not viable considering the increased number of political parties that would need to be included on the commission. However, opposition parties objected to the NEC structure proposed by the ruling MPLA where the President would nominate three members of the commission and the commission would be subject to management by the Ministry of Territorial Administration, stating that this would prevent the NEC from being independent and therefore affect its impartiality. Civil society groups are also advocating that the NEC should be independent and take charge of the entire election process from voter registration to running the ballot itself.

The MPLA, on the other hand, wants a limited role for the NEC with the government remaining in charge of registering the population and compiling the voter lists. Under the MPLA plan, the NEC would be set up before the elections but after the electoral preparation process has

been completed – a scenario similar to 1992 when the government prepared the election budget, conducted and selected the bids for services and organized the voter registration. While the MPLA has promised to listen to the concerns of other political parties and proposed that the NEC's composition be debated by parliament as it drafts a new electoral law, opposition parties and civic groups fear that the MPLA will use its substantial majority in parliament to push through its own agenda.

These fears may already have been realized when the government created an Inter-ministerial Commission composed of Ministers nominated by the MPLA, headed by the new minister of Territorial Administration in December 2004. The Inter-Ministerial Commission is tasked to begin preparing the technical and administrative groundwork for holding the next general elections, including voter registration. The government's unilateral decision regarding voter registration was strongly contested by opposition political parties as well as civil society. Although the government's position came as a surprise, in effect, the government had given the responsibility for voter registration to Ministry of Territorial Administration since 1999.

The Ministry of Territorial Administration has started assessing the country's local administrative capacity to manage the elections. In comparison to the 1992 elections, the physical destruction is much higher because the war was at its fiercest from 1992 to 1994, reaching urban areas for the first time. This is in addition to 12 years of neglect with virtually little to no funding for repairs and maintenance of public infrastructure. On the other hand, technological innovations will probably make it easier to communicate than in 1992.

On a positive note, the media (press and radio) have been filled with stories covering the election laws from a diversity of perspectives, and citizens within Luanda seem to be reasonably well informed about the main issues (see Annex 2). The widespread news coverage garnered considerable public interest and contributed to an escalation of public debate surrounding elections. Engendering this type of debate in Angola had been challenging to date, but it is clear that civic interest has been piqued. The civic partners with which NDI works continued to experience an increased level of inquiries from other civil society organizations as well as political parties and citizens who are interested in engaging in civic education and advocacy activities, as well as the media.

NDI Program

Since 2003, with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), NDI has been working to strengthen civil society organizations in advance of Angola's upcoming elections. The current program represents a continuation of activities under the Institute's previous CEPPS leader cooperative agreement. Major achievements under the 2003-2004 program included: organizational capacity building workshops through which civic groups developed effective organizational structures to engage in civic and voter education in the electoral process; civic groups' increased access to information and educational materials on elections that provide the foundation for civic engagement in the electoral process; through civic and voter education training, the electoral networks demonstrated that participants understood democratic values and citizen participation in relation to electoral issues; media training provided civic groups with the tools on how to communicate effectively on electoral-related issues to a

wide audience; and advocacy campaigns on the constitutional process and electoral law to ensure civil society influence and pressure on the electoral process.

NDI initiated activities under its follow-on CEPPS associate cooperative agreement during this quarter. Through this program, the Institute plans to continue its support to the electoral networks established during the previous grant to carry out voter education outreach and to monitor elections, as well as develop voter education material and observation forms that will allow the networks to issue credible independent statements. NDI aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Strengthen the ability of Angolan civil society organizations to observe the electoral process; and
- Strengthen the ability of civil society organizations to contribute to a peaceful election.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES¹

Civic Partnerships

NDI is working with three civic groups – REDE, BEN and COIEPA. The Rede Eleitoral, a Luanda-based consortium of civil society organizations, is involved in civic education and advocacy on election issues and plans to become involved in a nationwide monitoring organization. NDI is providing financial support to the REDE via a subgrant to one of its member organizations, the National Counseling Center (NCC). BEN is an election network based in Benguela province led by Okutiuka, a youth-focused nongovernmental organization (NGO). BEN has been conducting community meetings and radio programs on democracy and election issues with financial support from NDI (via a subgrant to Okutiuka). The faith-based organization, COIEPA, is also interested in election-related civic education and advocacy. NDI is providing technical assistance to strengthen COIEPA and help it create links with other networks.

Rede Eleitoral (REDE)

REDE is a network of 18 civil society organizations based in Luanda that seeks to advocate for a free and fair electoral process, increase voter confidence in elections and promote a culture of political tolerance. The REDE currently has some presence in nine provinces and wants to become a nationwide network. Attendance at the network's bi-weekly meetings with member organizations increased steadily over the quarter, an indicator of the success of the REDE and growing interest in its activities. NDI has been working with the REDE since its inception to build its capacity to engage in the electoral process and help it achieve its objectives. The REDE coordination executive committee, which consists of four members and a secretary, meets weekly with NDI to review and plan activities. During the previous quarter, the network elected a board of directors and formed the coordination team. This quarter, the network established subcommittees on advocacy and social communication to keep up with its growing

¹ Please refer to Annex 1 for a numeric summary of NDI and partner activities for the January to March 2005 reporting period.

role in these areas. The REDE still has to finalize its statutes, a process that NDI is continuing to support.

Advocacy Campaign

The REDE began to implement an advocacy campaign to influence the electoral process and advocate for a free and fair electoral process during the previous year. To help the network further develop its advocacy strategy, NDI held marathon workshops to review Angola's election, observation, voter registration and political party laws. For the first workshop on January 14, NDI had four groups review each of the laws during the morning and, in the afternoon, the groups reported on the main issues and noted their recommendations. The groups agreed that a team should draft a document with general comments on the laws. Given the complexity of the subject matter and their lack of experience with analyzing legal documents, the network decided to meet the following week to carefully review each of the laws. As a result, REDE prepared a five-page document with comments on the law, and submitted it to the National Assembly and political party bench leaders (see Annex 3). The document addressed the following key areas:

- National observers should be allowed to observe the entire election process from voter registration and not just the campaign period;
- Observers should not be required to announce where they plan to conduct their work;
- Voter registration should come under the purview of the NEC and not the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MAT); and
- Composition of the NEC should be balanced to represent diverse political party and civil society interests.

Four additional workshops were held with mixed success. The REDE coordination team had not realized the importance of selecting participants with the technical skills to analyze in detail the legal package, and only half of the coordination team attended each workshop including the one member with greater skills (a fourth year law student). This meant that the workshops were conducted more like seminars on election law rather than as analytical meetings. Despite these challenges, the team nominated an advocacy strategy sub-committee from the attendees with greatest understanding of and interest in developing the advocacy strategy, and was able to prepare the strategy. This included meetings with political party leaders, leaders of the parliamentary benches and with key people within the first commission that was tasked with the major portion of debating the electoral packages. In addition, participants organized several leaders to attend and report on commission meetings.

As a part of its advocacy campaign, REDE held a press conference with NDI assistance on February 2. Ten members of the press attended, including local newspapers and radio, Voice of America and RTP Television. The Angola wire service and the state daily paper published stories on the conference, which were drawn from the network's press release and statement. The REDE's substantive press packs contained an organizational brochure, a list of current activities and a table showing the network's strength in numbers per province from the database.²

² In late 2004, NDI developed a database for the Institute's civic partners that provides easily accessible information on the outreach capacity of member civil society organizations in each province, including the number of offices,

As a result of its advocacy efforts, the Rede Eleitoral quickly became recognized as an independent expert on Angola's electoral laws and has been invited to participate in radio debates on the subject, which, in turn, has raised the network's profile and aided its credibility. Also as a result of the successful campaign, changes are being made to the law on observation to include many of the REDE's recommendations. Although the laws have not been approved, the Rede has sat at the parliamentary debates and asserts that deputies agree to their recommendation that observers can start monitoring the voter registration and not be limited to the official campaign period, which is one month before elections as, proposed by the MPLA. In addition, deputies are considering striking out the MPLA's proposal to oblige observers to specify which polling station they will monitor.

National Conference

With NDI assistance, the Rede Eleitoral planned and coordinated a national conference on electoral issues on February 22 and 23. The conference brought together participants from provincial civic groups interested in working on election related issues to improve their understanding of electoral processes and regional standards as well as to raise the profile of the network. The 120 participants included representatives from civic groups around the country, political parties, relevant government departments and the media. In addition, the network invited two people each from REDE member organizations and affiliates in 11 provinces as well as COIEPA's five regional coordinators to participate. This was the first time that individuals from the provinces had been invited to the capital for discussion on election related topics and the first large-scale event organized by the Rede Eleitoral.

The conference agenda focused on: a discussion of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) electoral norms; a comparison of electoral systems in Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique; types of voting fraud and the importance of observing the counting and tabulation process; the role of national observers in ensuring transparency; and voter registration. NDI's Portuguese language manual on voter registration was also distributed. (See annex 4 for the conference agenda.)

The conference generated an enormous amount of media interest and dominated radio and TV headlines for the two days. The REDE coordinator and many of the speakers gave interviews to all of the news groups (see Annex 5).

Provincial Election Network Workshop

Following the national conference, the 27 participants from the provincial civic groups stayed an additional two days to join in a workshop on establishing an electoral network in their own provinces. Representatives from the networks in Benguela, Luanda, and Uige shared their experiences on how their networks are organized, problems and program activities. REDE compiled extensive packages containing copies of electoral laws and training materials for each

staff and equipment for each group and information on educational levels of key members, the type of projects being conducted, and funding levels.

of the interested civic groups to help them start up networks and resource centers in their provinces.

The provincial representatives then divided into groups and assessed local resources and needs to determine which organizations could provide office space and computers as well as which other local organizations they should contact to join in the networks. They then agreed on a plan of action for each province to establish a network with initial program ideas (see Annex 6). Using NDI's photocopying machine the REDE made more than 100 copies of the draft electoral legislation as well as training material to give to the provincial networks so they can start a resource center. The REDE plans to visit six of the provinces over the next few months under its subgrant arrangement with NDI to further support the development of these networks.

Groups from three of the provinces, Bié, Huambo and Uíge submitted project proposals to NDI following the sessions. Unfortunately, the proposals were not yet of sufficient quality to warrant funding; however, NDI is planning to work with the groups to help them develop their ideas further.

Benguela Election Network

BEN is a network of 10 regional civil society organizations coordinated by Okutiuka, which actively promotes youth participation in Angola's democratic process. BEN works in Benguela, Angola's second most populous province, offering a host of activities to foster better understanding of democratic principles and practices through outreach campaigns to youth. NDI began its partnership with Okutiuka in December 2003 to support the organization in meeting its three main objectives: educating citizens about the electoral process; building awareness about elections; and facilitating dialogue between local administrators and political parties on community politics. Okutiuka primarily serves the youth of Lobito and Benguela, the two main cities in the province of Benguela, and is the leading group in an electoral network of Benguela civic organizations known as the Benguela Electoral Network (BEN). During this quarter, NDI planned to sign a new subgrant agreement with Okutiuka and, although the proposal was complete, the group had difficulty finalizing all the documents necessary to process the agreement. NDI now expects to issue the subgrant in April.

In March, NDI conducted a two-day workshop on voter registration and electoral laws organized by BEN for its members. Political parties also attended with both UNITA and the MPLA representatives interacting and demonstrating a calmer political environment. Highlighting the need for massive voter education, NDI conducted a quick survey of how many participants believed it was necessary to have identification card to obtain a voter card, and more than half, including political party representatives, believed it was necessary even though both draft laws maintain the 1992 principle of allowing witnesses to verify citizenship. Participants agreed that it would be important to maintain these criteria, but many were concerned about fraud. NDI utilized the opportunity to highlight CSOs' key role in creating trust in registration through observation and issuing a credible statement. After the workshop, NDI met with BEN to review its workplan and conduct an assessment of the network's organizational and programmatic capacity.

COEIPA

COEIPA is a network of religious organizations managed from five regional offices that cover all of the Angolan provinces. COEIPA has been working with NDI to plan its overall strategy and areas for involvement in supporting the upcoming elections. During this quarter, NDI continued to provide technical assistance to COEIPA regional offices in developing and reviewing their short-term plans as well as assisting the head office in developing a long-term strategy for electoral support. In this manner, NDI routinely meets with COEIPA's strategic team to prepare and review its 60-day work plans.³ Given the scarcity of information at the provincial level and the acknowledged lack of knowledge about elections, NDI invited COEIPA's five regional secretaries to the REDE's national conference and two-day strategic planning workshop (discussed above).

In addition, NDI organized a one and one-half day strategic planning session with the secretaries to give greater emphasis to the five regional offices that cover all of the Angolan provinces including setup, staffing and facilitating communication between the field and the main office. The session also highlighted one of COEIPA's management problems – sharing of financial information among its members. Most of the participants in the planning session had developed regional plans, but they did not have funds to implement them, did not know how much the central office has, nor were they aware of the organization's fundraising strategy. The executive secretary is aware of the problem, but does not fully understand how this contributes to a sense of frustration among COEIPA's members and how donors regard such a situation. The workshops helped the secretaries brainstorm constructive and appropriate solutions to the aforementioned problems.

NDI plans to continue to work with COEIPA on its voter education and observation efforts and to assist it in developing a nationwide program. To provide an opportunity to test out COEIPA's organizational capacity and because funds from the donor community as of yet are still scarce, NDI suggested that COEIPA conduct a pilot project on voter education and observation of the voter registration process in the five provinces where the group's regional offices are located. The project is split into separate segments, each covering a province so that donors can decide to support any number of project(s).

In addition, NDI plans to support COEIPA as well as other civic partners in developing voter education material, methodology and standard forms for domestic election observation and training observers using the training-of-trainers methodology. As a first step, however, to ensure buy-in from the religious entities, NDI suggested reviewing the project with COEIPA's executive secretary and, eventually, with the religious leadership to review the steps necessary to issue a credible, well grounded statement about elections.

³ In October 2003, NDI began working with COEIPA, a faith-based organization with representatives from churches in almost every corner of Angola, providing technical but not financial assistance to support the group's efforts to train domestic monitors. Beginning with an initial workshop to introduce the strategic planning framework in September 2004, NDI continued to conduct targeted strategic planning sessions with COEIPA to review and reassess its organizational mission and vision, determine objectives and establish short-, medium- and long-term plans to achieve them.

Other Specialized Workshops and Activities

Book Launch and Workshops with Dr. Onofre dos Santos

In conjunction with IRI, NDI invited Dr. Onofre dos Santos, former director general for of the National Electoral Commission in 1992, to visit Angola for 10 days in February to launch the publication of his book, *1992 Angolan Elections: A Lesson for the Future* and hold private meetings with CSOs and political parties. The book, a two-year joint effort funded by NDI and IRI (with USAID support through the current and previous cooperative agreements), is a definitive guide to the organization of the historic elections.

More than 270 people attended the launch, including government ministers and members of all the major political parties, which took place during the REDE national conference amid wide acclaim and interest. NDI ensured that media representatives were present and that Dr. Santos was interviewed by several international TV channels to inform Angolan citizens as well as the international community about the importance of the upcoming elections.



Launch of Dr. Santos book, Luanda, February 05

In addition, NDI made full use of his visit, organizing a series of meetings with various stakeholders including the Interministerial Committee on elections and a key group of ambassadors to present his findings on the current electoral law packages.

With NDI assistance, Dr. Santos conducted a workshop entitled “Fraud, Counting and Tabulation” for civil society organizations and political parties and spoke at the national conference on elections, which greatly helped raise the profile of the event. His presentation highlighted the fact that both the 1992 law and the draft laws provide mechanisms for interested actors to combat fraud and irregularities. It also served to remind groups that they should start immediately training their members so they can be more effective and avoid the 1992 experience in which fraud was declared after announcement of the results, calling into question the role and capacity of party monitors during voter registration and the election days.

Women’s Youth Conference

In addition to the trainings and workshops conducted for the civic partners mentioned above, from March 17 to 18, NDI also conducted training for leaders of women’s youth organizations from the National Youth Council. NDI adopted the training-of-trainers methodology, empowering the women participants to replicate the training on electoral procedures and issues of women’s political participation and enfranchisement in their respective organizations.

As a testament to how interesting the women found the workshop, more participants attended the second day than the first. Evaluation comments were the most positive that NDI Angola has ever received for a workshop, and all the women participants signed up for further training and to assist NDI as facilitators in a similar workshop for men's youth leaders that NDI and the National Youth Council are planning to hold in the next quarter.

NDI hopes that this new partnership with the National Youth Council will continue and, through this, youth groups around the country may be mobilized to join local election networks (see Annex 5).

Donor and Partner Coordination Meetings

NDI participated actively in the United Nation's (UN) informal election group meeting in March to begin discussions on what role the UN and other international actors might play in regards to the electoral process. The Institute also continued to coordinate with other implementing partners on adopting mechanisms for better coordination of programs, evaluation of partners and identification of complimentary activities. NDI also met with different representatives of donor countries to identify additional sources of funds that could support the work of local civic groups. At the moment, it is likely that increased funding will only become available starting in July. NDI is currently reviewing its budget to identify the possibility of increasing the amount available for subgrants to allow the networks to continue operating and growing, especially with regard to observation of the voter registration process.

The Ministry for Territorial Administration National Director of Elections Paulo Soma approached NDI to assist the government in carrying out a nationwide voter education program. In response, NDI sent a letter detailing the support it is currently providing for the process, including developing a standard training package, publishing manuals on observing voter registration and electoral observation, media monitoring, and producing a monthly bulletin about elections. NDI also expressed its intention to provide technical support to civic groups to form networks or adopt coordinating mechanisms to:

- Train trainers to conduct voter education programs;
- Conduct voter education programs;
- Observe the electoral process;
- Mobilize citizens to verify the quality of the voters' list; and
- Maintain a database of civic groups interested in participating in the electoral process.

Performance Monitoring Plan Workshop

NDI participated in a four-day USAID/Angola workshop for Democracy and Governance partners that aimed to:

- Strengthen and regularize the mission's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) data collection and indicator identification and analysis to ensure that all partners are presenting information in a uniform manner that reflects a common understanding of the indicators and overall DG Results Framework.

- Develop a new USAID Intermediate Result (IR) and indicators relevant to election activities.
- Brainstorm the current democracy and governance situation in Angola and future direction of USAID/Angola's work in this sector.
- Meet with civil society organizations and political parties to assess the local democracy and governance environment in terms of changes that have occurred in the last three years as well as future perspectives.

In conjunction with IRI, NDI discussed USAID's election IR and, as a result, USAID recommended merging some indicators to which both partners will respond in their reporting. The agreed draft indicators are as follows:

- Number and variety of participants in public elections fora, disaggregated by geographic focus, gender and youth.
- Elections Index – to capture the degree to which input and feedback by political parties, candidates and civic groups is considered by electoral authorities (NDI agreed to draft this index – see Annex 7 – IRI will adapt the wording of each line to relate to political party activity).
- Number of people reached by civil society voter education efforts, including media efforts.

Election Information Dissemination

Monthly Election Bulletin

NDI produced two issues and printed 26,000 copies of its electoral bulletin, *In your vote...your choice, your future*, with near nationwide distribution.⁴ Beneficiaries of the bulletin include members of the National Assembly, state and provincial ministries and departments, political parties, churches, universities, schools and civic groups. The bulletin is largely distributed to urban areas, but the acquisition of another vehicle will permit the Institute to expand and extend bulletin distribution to more rural areas.

Edition 8 of the bulletin focused on the topic of electoral campaigning. The topic was selected to address the general lack of knowledge regarding the role of political parties in a campaign and misconception primarily held by the majority party that campaigning is only allowed during the officially funded campaign period, which started one month before the 1992 elections and will likely be the same for the next elections. Bulletin edition number 9 focused on the role of media, in particular the additional obligation of state media to provide impartial information and alternative viewpoints whether from political parties, civic groups or individuals to educate the citizens. The bulletin also introduced the importance of media monitoring and

⁴ Beginning in October 2003, NDI produced a monthly electoral bulletin, *In your vote...your choice, your future*, with near country-wide distribution. Each issue featured stories on a theme relevant to the electoral process. The monthly bulletins provide topical and current information regarding elections in Angola and in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region. Articles provide information about democracy and elections to inform and educate citizens and encourage their engagement in the future electoral process.

how it constitutes a cornerstone for the evaluation of an election for both national and international observers.

The bulletin's main editor to date, Reis Luis, has informed NDI he will no longer continue producing the bulletin because he has become the acting director of his civic group, thus severely limiting the time he has available. For the time being, NDI is exploring the possibility of writing the bulletin in-house with the assistance of the local program officer to be hired (discussed below).

The Rede Eleitoral has also decided that as part of its advocacy activities, the network wants to publish op-ed pieces, and has established a sub-committee for communications that will be tasked with writing regular articles on electoral issues. NDI suggested that it write for the election bulletin and, at the same time, submit articles to the state daily newspaper or an independent weekly.

Resource Center

The joint NDI and IRI Civil Society and Political Party Resource Center continued to draw large number of activists, particularly those associated with REDE. The center is used to organize meetings, hold working sessions of REDE sub-committees and to provide democracy, civic participation and election information to its civic partners. The center features a variety of resources including books, reports and videos on comparative election systems and legislation, election observation manuals and reports as well as newspapers, journals, and access to the internet. NDI continues to encourage its civic partners to utilize the center's resources, conduct meetings in the available space and encourage network members and other civil society organizations to visit the center.

Network Database

In late 2004 (during the previous grant period), NDI's Information and Technology (IT) department developed a database for the Institute's civic partners. The system provides an easy survey of the outreach capacity of civil society organizations in each province, including the number of staff, offices and facilities for each group as well as information on the type of projects being conducted and funding levels. During this quarter, data for the six remaining organizations that are a part of the REDE network as well as information on the Benguela and Uige networks were inputted into the system. The reports created from the database enable the REDE to assess its strengths and weaknesses as a network and improve its ability to plan outreach and training activities in targeted geographic regions.

Using the database, REDE identified key organizations that it wishes to engage as active members of the network due to their size and geographic reach, such as COIEPA and *Acção para o Desenvolvimento Rural e Ambiente* (Action for Rural and Environmental Development – ADRA), the country's largest NGO, involved in community development and agriculture. REDE began a series of meetings with these groups to involve them more fully in the network. It is hoped that a core group of senior civil society figures will emerge to review election-related

programs, materials and observation methodology and to make joint statements on electoral issues.

Administrative Activities and Staffing

NDI hired a local program assistant, Sizaltina Cutaia, in early January. NDI is continuing the search for a local program officer position, and hopes to hire a qualified candidate in the coming quarter.

Two Washington-based staff traveled to the Angola office this quarter to support the program. Given the increased complexity of managing NDI's current subgrant partners, all of whom support their respective electoral networks, D.C.-based accountant Lee Boyce visited Angola in March to provide advanced training to the Institute's local accounting officer on NDI financial rules and procedures. NDI plans to assign an additional administrative staff to assist the financial officer overseeing reporting requirements for subgrant partners. In addition, NDI's new D.C.-based program officer, Dileepan Sivapathasundaram, also visited Angola to meet with civic partners and USAID and to participate in training activities.

IV. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Objective 1: Strengthen the ability of Angolan civil society organizations to engage in the electoral process.

With NDI financial and technical support, REDE has made significant progress in both its organizational development and election-related work. It has strengthened its core team with the addition of a secretary and replacement of its communication officer. It has also developed successful advocacy and communications teams, as evidenced by the network's ability to organize and conduct the largest conference of the year so far, the national conference on election issues and SADC standards. As a result of the national conference and subsequent workshop on establishing local electoral networks, provincial networks are being organized in nine provinces – Uige, Zaire, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Huambo, Huila and Bie.

As a result of the strategic planning work that has been undertaken with COIEPA, the organization has developed a vision that includes more realistic objectives for its participation in the elections. It has also streamlined its operations in accordance with this vision and replaced many ineffective staff members. COIEPA has also created a written plan of action for the coming five years and is using this to develop project proposals for funding. Its current funding from the European Union (EU) ends in May and is not likely to be renewed. Due to the changes the organization has implemented, NDI has reason to believe that it will successfully generate further funds to keep the important provincial network operating.

NDI was able to engage other potential civic partners, including ADRA and the National Youth Council, in activities this quarter. As a result of the NDI training, these groups have indicated their interest in becoming involved in different aspects of election work, including voter education and election observation.

Objective 2: Strengthen the ability of civil society organizations to contribute to a peaceful election.

Under the guidance of NDI, REDE was able to analyze the draft electoral laws and present its opinions to the national assembly in a coherent and well-researched paper. The network further publicized its opinion through a series of meetings with influential politicians and through press interviews, a conference and participating in radio debates. Not only is the REDE now accepted as a leading authority on the draft legislation, but the group's advocacy efforts have resulted in changes to the draft laws in line with REDE proposals. Specifically, during the parliamentary debates deputies have in principle agreed to their recommendation that nonpartisan can start monitoring the voter registration and not limited to the official campaign period which is one month before elections as proposed by the MPLA. In addition deputies are considering to strike out the MPLA's proposal to oblige observers to specify which voting booth they will monitor. Once the laws are approved it will be possible to assess the full impact of the advocacy campaign

During this quarter, NDI observed greater public acceptance and understanding of the role of civic groups in providing transparency to the electoral process than existed three months ago, particularly with regard to domestic election monitoring. There was no national election monitoring in the 1992 elections and no provision for it in the law. Previously, Angolan civil society organizations, although interested in engaging in the electoral process, primarily concerned themselves with civic education and conflict resolution. Following a long series of workshops on the role of civic groups and the importance of domestic monitoring and election fraud, however, REDE implemented a successful advocacy campaign to increase the time period for election monitoring from the rather limited one month prior to elections as proposed by the MPLA to have it start with voter registration. In addition, several civic groups that had not previously proposed to conduct domestic monitoring have now added this activity to their project proposals (including COIEPA, BEN and REDE). Wider acceptance of national election monitoring and an understanding of how this can add to the electoral process, was also demonstrated this quarter through statements made by opposition and government political leaders, who supported the work of domestic monitors, and by recent overtures from the National Directorate of Elections asking for the assistance of civic groups in voter education.

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

During the next quarter, NDI plans to accomplish the following activities:

- Develop voter education material with civic partners, including church organizations, once the electoral laws are passed. This material will be shown to the National Directorate of Elections for approval.
- Develop standard voter registration methodology and forms with civic partners.
- Continue strategic planning with REDE to help it identify key resource weaknesses and develop plans to overcome these so that it is able to meet ever increasing demands on its organizational capacity.
- Start a similar strategic planning exercise with BEN.

- Continue capacity building with key civic partners, particularly in the areas of proposal writing, project management, strategic planning and effective use of the media.
- Assist civic partners, particularly COIEPA, in identifying and seeking additional funding sources to conduct a nationwide voter registration observation.
- Assist civic partners in identifying key personnel to act as trainers of voter registration monitors and voter education trainers, and train these core personnel on the two topics as well as use of the materials developed.
- Continue to work with the National Youth Council on training-of-trainers for voter education.
- Assist REDE in supporting developing networks in Malange, Uige, Huambo and Bie provinces.
- Assist REDE in developing communication systems and information flow to support the developing provincial networks.
- Assist civic partners in developing effective media strategies to publicize voter registration information and election law analysis and to recruit volunteers.
- Assist REDE in its analysis of the final electoral laws and the publicizing the network's findings.
- Coordinate subgrant support to BEN (via Okutiuka) to help strengthen the network, continue its program of community meetings, become more engaged with REDE to develop voter registration education and monitoring activities and exchange experiences.
- Extend subgrant support to REDE (via NCC) to cover similar activities and further support its advocacy and coordination efforts.
- Continue to develop a plan for next year's program to include support to civic groups in the provision of voter education, promotion of conflict resolution mechanisms and in the formation of a nationwide election-monitoring network.
- Coordinate among local, national and international organizations working in support of the electoral process.
- Recruit and hire a local program officer.

VI. List of Attachments

- Annex 1 – Numeric Summary of Activities
- Annex 2 – Newspaper article – “Angola: Debate Over the Electoral Process Heating Up”
- Annex 3 – REDE Position on Election Laws
- Annex 4 – National Conference Agenda
- Annex 5 – Newspaper articles – “Network Makes Contribute to Electoral Package”, “SADC Electoral Processes Conference Continues” and “NDI Director Highlights Importance of Woman in Elections”
- Annex 6 – Log frame for each of the provinces attending the workshop on establishing a local network
- Annex 7 – Draft Observation Index

Annex 1
Numeric Summary of Activities from January – March 2004

Date	Activity	Partner	NDI Objectives	USAID Objectives	Participants	of which women
Jan-05	REDE general meeting	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	25	4
Jan-06	coordination meeting	REDE Executive	1.1.1	6.1	7	4
Jan-11	coordination meeting	REDE Executive	1.1.1	6.1	7	4
Jan-13	REDE general meeting	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	30	5
Jan-14	Workshop on analysing the electoral laws	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	23	1
Jan-19	Workshop on analysing the law of registration	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	6	3
Jan-20	REDE general meeting	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	21	#
Jan-20	Workshop on analysing the general election laws	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	10	4
Jan-21	Workshop on analysing the law of observers	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	7	3
Jan-21	Workshop on analysing the law of political parties	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	8	2
Jan-22	coordination meeting	REDE Executive	1.1.1		6	2
Jan-24	Workshop on forming an advocacy strategy	REDE	1.1.3	6.1	30	6
Jan-25	coordination meeting	REDE Executive	1.1.1	6.1	6	2
Feb-02	REDE Press conference	REDE	1.3.3	6.1	16	5
Feb-02	coordination meeting	REDE Executive	1.1.1	6.1	8	4
Feb-03	REDE general meeting	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	37	5
Feb3-4	Meetings with the advocacy teams	REDE	1.1.3	6.1		
Feb-14	Workshop on electoral laws	UNITA's Deputies	1.1.1	6.1	6	0
Feb-18	Meeting on Electoral process		1.1.1	6.1	16	0
Feb-21	Coordination meeting	International Elections Working Group	1.1.1	6.1	24	5
Feb-21	Workshop on fraud, counting and tabulation	Dr. Onofre dos Santos	1.1.1	6.1	10	1
Feb 22-23	National conference	REDE	1.2.2	6.1	146	20
Feb-23	Book launch	IRI and Dr Onofre dos Santos		6.1		
Feb 24-25	Workshop for provincial NGO's on how to set up a network	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	38	6
Feb 24-25	Strategic session	COIEPA	1.4.1	6.1		
Mar-03	REDE general meeting	REDE	1.1.1		33	4
Mar-03	Workshop on voter registration	REDE Benguela	1.1.1	6.1	41	5
Mar-04	Meeting to discuss the electoral law drafts	REDE Benguela	1.1.1	6.1	30	3
Mar-04	Coordination meeting	REDE Benguela Executive	1.1.1	6.1	10	
Mar-10	Coordination meeting	REDE Executive	1.1.1	6.1	10	4
Mar-17	REDE general meeting	REDE	1.1.1	6.1	25	4
Mar 17-18	workshop on elections	Youth National Council	1.1.1	6.1	25	25
Mar-22	Coordination meeting	REDE Executive	1.1.1	6.1	7	3
TOTAL					668	134

Annex 2

Angola: Debate Over the Electoral Process Heating Up

UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (LUANDA), January 19, 2005

As Angola gears up for its first national election in more than a decade, parliament has begun the long process of reforming the electoral laws.

With the first ballot since 1992 due to be held next year, 2005 is seen as key to electoral preparations, with arguments over voter registration, civil disarmament and the role of a national electoral commission taking centre stage.

"We have presented our proposals, and the opposition [have presented] theirs - this will be the first time parliament will start debating these; then individual parliamentary commissions will start discussions," a spokesman for the ruling MPLA party, Kwata Kanawa, told IRIN.

One western diplomat noted: "This is another important landmark in Angola's democracy, but there is a long and sometimes difficult road ahead, with a lot of work still to be done ... It will take many months of hard work to prepare for elections."

When Angola held its last ballot it was against the backdrop of a shaky UN-monitored peace process still embroiled in civil war. Although the poll was deemed generally free and fair by the international community, the then rebel group - now opposition party, UNITA - contested the results and returned to war against the MPLA.

This time, everyone is eager to see a smooth, fair and peaceful process.

Voter registration is a vital issue and will be a mammoth task. With large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, who fled their homes during 27 years of brutal conflict, now returning home, many of the country's 13 million people have no identity documents.

"There are going to be very serious logistical difficulties involved in registering people to vote: ensuring there is no double registration, and making sure people understand their rights as electors," said Chris Melville, an analyst from the political think-tank, Global Insight.

RIFTS

With more than a year to go before the country goes to the polls, rifts are already appearing, and the chief bone of contention is the creation and mandate of the proposed electoral commission.

Opposition parties and civil society groups say the commission should be independent and oversee all stages of the process, including voter registration.

"But the MPLA wants it [voter registration] to be carried out by the government, and a national electoral commission set up before the elections, [but] after the process of preparation has been completed," complained Adalberto da Costa, UNITA's information secretary.

The MPLA has promised to listen to the concerns of other political parties, but opposition groups fear it will use its substantial majority in parliament to push through its own agenda.

"The electoral laws are of extraordinary importance; they are absolutely central. But presently it is a completely unbalanced game, because the rules are only defined by the MPLA, which is not prepared to debate the rules," Da Costa said.

MPLA spokesman Kanawa said the party would like to reach a consensus with the opposition, but stressed that it was unwilling to budge on the issue of voter registration. "We are working within the context of what is viable," he explained. "Voter registration in Angola, like anywhere else in the world, is the government's responsibility ... We'll listen to their point of view, but we continue to maintain that voter registration is the government's task."

There are lingering fears that the registration process may not be fair and transparent. Opposition groups and civil society argue that one way of ensuring transparency would be to ensure external observation in the preparation period, and not only during campaigning, which usually kicks off around a month ahead of the ballot.

"It's more typical for local observers to start observing at voter registration - that's a good time to start," said the head of one pro-democracy NGO.

The MPLA has reportedly argued that all monitors should be organisations recognised by the government, but Carlos Sucami, coordinator of the Rede Eleitoral, a coalition of groups fighting for a free and fair electoral process, has urged the authorities not to alienate community-based groups.

"The law governing electoral observation should make room for the participation of informal groups and civil society organisations, as well as those that have a legal personality," he said in a statement.

Another widespread fear is that, as elections approach and the atmosphere in Angola becomes more politically charged, conflict could increase among a civilian population that still holds a large number of weapons. Critics say the government is not doing enough to encourage civilians to give up their guns, which could endanger the entire electoral process.

"Disarmament of the civilian population is absolutely central - it is essential to guaranteeing the stability of the process," said UNITA's Da Costa.

CLOSE INTERNATIONAL EYE

Although the international community has thus far taken a back seat, it is eyeing the run-up to elections very closely. "We will be watching, but we will not make comments from the sidelines

as if we were watching a football match. We will look at how Angola, as a member of SADC (Southern African Development Community), puts into practice the SADC principles of how to conduct democratic elections," said the western diplomat.

So much time has elapsed since the last general elections, and Angolans are so eager to have their say, that analysts believe the ballot itself will be more important than the quality of the process.

"We have to recognise that any elections in 2006 are likely to be subject to deficiencies and will not meet international standards of transparency and fairness," said Melville. "But, for states undergoing difficult transitions to democracy, such deficiencies will attract less criticism."

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

Annex 3
REDE Position on Election Laws



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CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ELECTORAL NETWORK TO THE ELECTORAL PACKAGE

The Electoral Network, a Consortium of Angolan non governmental organizations, is determined to ensure the participation of the civil society in the electoral process so that the next general elections are considered free and fair. It implements projects of civic and electoral education, prevention of electoral conflicts, legal profession of the electoral legislation and electoral observation.

The Network is committed to play its role within the electoral law.

On Jan 14, the Electoral Network held a workshop to analyse the electoral legislative package of MPLA and of the opposition. At end the participants presented the following recommendations and conclusions:

Electoral law

To guarantee the independence of the National Independent Electoral Council (CNEI) the Network defends that it should be autonomous both administrative and financially. The CNEI should account to the National Assembly and its members chosen based on capacity and professional competence and by two thirds of parliament based on a list of candidates proposed by parliamentary parties.

The Electoral Network is concerned that in the MPLA proposal the President of the Republic indicates three members of the Electoral Council because it believes that all members should be chosen by the National Assembly using the criteria referred above.

The Electoral Network does not agree that the President of the Electoral Council be a Judge chosen from the Constitutional Tribunal because of the role the Court will play in electoral litigations.

MPLA's draft bill gives antenna rights during the electoral campaign and it reduces the period of notification to the authorities for parties to notify if they are holding a manifestation. However the Electoral Network thinks that it is important to highlight that political freedom to conduct activities is already guaranteed in the Constitution and related laws such as the freedom of expression and of manifestation and it is not restricted to the period of the electoral campaign.

The Network suggests that the campaign period stops 48 hours before elections rather than 24 hours.

The Network believes that the vote is a civic right therefore should be extended to citizens in the following situations:

- 1 - detainees in protective custody; and
- 2 - Angolan citizens abroad (in the proposal of MPLA the ones that live abroad cannot vote for in the presidential elections).

Law of Observation

National observation is a monitoring and observation process so the national observers should have the same freedoms as the delegates of the Political Parties, which are to be able to raise doubts and to present complaints related to the observed electoral operations in the polling station, or during the counting of the results at the different levels as long as it is done in a responsible and democratic way.

The national observation should not be limited because that is a continuous process that includes the three phases of the process (pre-election, electoral and post-electoral).

The international observation of the electoral process should begin 120 days before the elections and finish 90 days after the official publication of the results in accordance with the SADC principles for the administration, monitoring and observation to which Angola subscribes.

The competence to address invitations to people or organizations interested to observe should be given just to the organs of CNEI.

Non government organizations can be constituted in networks, formal and informal, to observe and to monitor the electoral process as the MPLA's draft law foresees the involvement of the Churches in this process.

The Electoral Network doesn't agree that the number of national observers should be limited.

The Network advocates that the observers do not have the obligation to tell the CNEI the place where they will observe because it removes the character of the independent observation.

The regulation of the Observation Law should be prepared by the National Assembly in partnership with NGOs.

The national observers should only present the observers' list for effects of accreditation to CNEI and not to the President of the Republic to guarantee impartiality and transparency.

Law of Electoral Registration

The Network agrees that the age of the vote is 18 years.

In agreement with the draft Electoral Law the electoral registration is supervised by the CNEI and therefore the Council should be established before the registration process begins to guarantee the transparency and the impartiality of registration. The network appeals that the civil societies including the Churches have the freedom to observe, monitor and contribute to the registration.

The voters should be encouraged to verify the voter lists to denounce the irregularities given, in consideration the high number of foreign citizens in ownership of documents of national identity.

Law of political parties

It will be difficult for Angolan citizens to be able to support the request of registration of a political party if it demands copies of identity card or passport as required in the draft project.

General observations

The functioning of the Constitutional Court and of the Provider of justice will contribute to the efficiency of the electoral process in Angola.

Electoral Network
Luanda, January 17, 2005

Annex 4
National Conference Agenda

CONFERÊNCIA NACIONAL

PRINCÍPIOS E PROCESSOS ELEITORAIS DA SADC E SUAS IMPLICAÇÕES NAS ELEIÇÕES GERAIS EM ANGOLA

22 de Fevereiro de 2005

9:30 *SESSÃO DE ABERTURA*

Mensagem da Coordenação da Rede Eleitoral

Mensagem da Direcção do NDI

10:00 *DIFFERENTES VERTENTES PARA UMA ANÁLISE*

DA INDEPENDÊNCIA DO CNE

Orador: Dr. Onofre dos Santos, Director Geral das Eleições de 1992

Moderador: Sr. Manuel Dinho

10:45 *Debate*

11:15 *Pausa/Café*

11:30 *PRINCÍPIOS ELEITORAIS NA SADC*

Orador: Augusto Santana, Director EISA –Angola

Moderador: Sr. Bernardino Muteka

12:30 *Debate*

13:00 *Almoço*

14:30 *PANEL - ABORDAGEM ANALÍTICA DOS PROCESSOS ELEITORAIS: Experiência de Botswana, Malawi e Moçambique*

Oradores: Sr. Carlos Sucami; Dr. Isidoro Cambamba e Sra. Fátima Fonseca Aguiar

15:15 *Debate*

16:00 *LANÇAMENTO DO MANUAL DE OBSERVAÇÃO ELEITORAL*

Oradora: Dra. Isabel Emerson, NDI

17:00 *Encerramento*

23 de Fevereiro de 2005

9.30 ESTUDO COMPARATIVO DE LEIS E SISTEMAS ELEITORAIS NA SADC

Oradora: Dra. Ina Soiri, SNU

Moderador: Sr. Francisco Alberto Tunga, COPEPA/Mige

10:15 Debates

10:45 *Pausa/Café*

11:00 *PANEL - A SOCIEDADE CIVIL FACE ÀS ELEIÇÕES*

Oradores: Dr. Justino P. Andrade e Sr. Carlos Sucami

Moderador: Sr. Miguel Sebastião, MEA

12:40' *Debate*

13:00 *Almoço*

14:00 *PROBLEMATICA DA CONTAGEM E PERTINÊNCIA*

DA SUPERVISÃO ELEITORAL

Oradora: Barbara Smith, NDI

Moderador: Leonardo Pinto

14:45 *Debate*

16:00 LANÇAMENTO DO LIVRO “Eleições de 1992 – Lições para o Futuro” do Dr. Onofre dos Santos

16:45 *Encerramento*

17:00 *Confraternização*

Annex 5

Newspaper Articles

Network Makes Contribute to Electoral Package

Angola Press Agency (Luanda), February 2, 2005

The Non-Governmental Organisation "Rede Eleitoral" is holding today in Luanda a press conference to present a document named "Network Contribute To The Electoral Package" and appraise the work done in 2004.

The gathering is to take place on the premises of the Democratic Institute for International Relations (NDI) and will also discuss the main areas of activity of the network.

The network comprises 30 Angolan organisations willing to contribute for free and fair general elections in the country.

It works in the fields of civic and electoral education, prevention of electoral conflicts and democracy.

SADC Electoral Processes Conference Continues

Angola Press Agency (Luanda), February 23, 2005

The National Conference on "Principles and Electoral Processes in SADC" and their implications to Angolan general elections, continues today in Luanda, under the Electoral Network and the Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

The conference that started Tuesday, is taking place on the premises of the Catholic University of Angola (UCAN), and is tackling today, its second and last day, such topics as the law and systems that regulate polls, the civil society and elections, elections supervision and the launch of the book "1992 Elections - Lessons For Future".

The session will be addressed by experts Pinto de Andrade, Carlos Sucami, Onofre dos Santos, Barbara Smith and Iina Soiri, facilitated by the Electoral Network officials, including Francisco Alberto Tunga, Miguel Sebastião and Leornado Pinto.

On the first day, the members of organisations associated with the Electoral Network tackled the various components of the independence of the National Electoral Council", electoral principles in SADC and analysis of electoral processes, based on the experiences of Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique.

The session was addressed by Onofre dos Santos, Augusto Santana, Carlos Sucami, Isidoro Cambamba, Fátima Fonseca Aguiar and Isabel Emerson.

The "Electoral Network" is a consortium of 30 Angolan Non-Governmental Organisations that seek to contribute for free and fair elections in the country. It deals in projects in areas of civic and electoral education, electoral conflicts prevention and advocacy.

In its turn, the NDI is a non-lucrative organisation that has as its task to strengthen and expand democracy across the world. It provides practical assistance to political leaders enabling them to deal with democratic values, practices and institutions.

It works with democrats in the establishment of political and civic organisations, protection of elections and participation of citizens, openness and governments accountability.

NDI Director Highlights Importance of Woman in Elections
Angola Press Agency (Luanda), March 17, 2005

The director of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Isabel Emerson, today in Luanda highlighted the importance of the involvement of Angolan woman the electoral process, as they are the country's largest group.

Isabel Emerson was speaking to Angop, alongside the opening of the seminar on woman participation in electoral processes, being attended by 60 young ladies with various juvenile organisations associated with the National Youth Council (CNJ).

The main speaker to the event said it is of general interest that woman active participation in the various steps leading to the preparation of elections be encouraged, so that they can impart trust on the results of the polls.

Isabel Emerson welcomed the CNJ initiative in promoting the programme that, she said, will equip the participants with solid knowledge about decision-making.

Going until Friday, the sessions are to discuss such topics as "General vision of electoral processes", "Woman and the vote", "Advocacy on important matters to woman" "the role of press", "how to interact with the political parties", etc. Set up in 1985, in the USA, the NDI has offices in several countries of the world, including Angola, where it has been established for the last five years, in partnership with civil society organisations based in Luanda, Benguela and Uije.

Annex 6
Log Frame for NGOs

Attached separately.

Annex 7
Draft Observation Index

Attached separately.

Annex 8

Onofre dos Santos book – *1992 Angolan Elections: A Lesson for the Future*

Attached separately in hard copy.